28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein programming the programmable logic controller is accomplished via programming input that only comes from the user.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein programming the programmable logic controller to solve the programming difficulties is accomplished by programming input that comes from the user.

REMARKS

The final Office Action dated December 3, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated February 13, 2004 have both been received and their contents carefully studied. Claims 1-28 are currently pending, plus new claim 29. The Advisory Action stated that the proposed amendments would not be entered, because they presented an additional claim without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. See MPEP § 714.13 citing *Ex parte Wirt,* 1905 C.D. 247, 117 O.G. 599 (Comm'r Pat. 1905). Therefore, the proposed amendments are again submitted herein.

Applicant respectfully notes that only one additional claim is presented, instead of the plurality of additional claims specified in MPEP § 714.13 citing *Ex parte Wirt,* 1905 C.D. 247, 117 O.G. 599 (Comm'r Pat. 1905). However, Applicant now opts to file a Request for Continued Examination, instead of filing a petition to the Commissioner under 37 C.F.R. § 1.127, because it is unclear if MPEP § 714.13 applies to a single added claim.

The independent claims are method claim 1 and system claim 15. Claims 1-28 stand rejected, except for claim 12 which is indicated to be allowable if placed in independent form, and therefore claim 12 is now placed in independent form. Claim 29 has not yet been examined.

New Claim 29 Introduces No New Matter and Is Not Obvious

New claim 29 says programming the programmable logic controller to solve the programming difficulties is accomplished by programming input that comes from the user. This is fully supported by FIG. 3 and the accompanying description of FIG. 3 in the application. Programming the programmable logic controller to overcome the difficulties is plainly not done by anyone or anything other than the user, according to FIG. 3.

Applicant respectfully points out that the December 3, 2003 Response to Arguments (at page 5 of the final Office Action) acknowledges that the show-me feature of *Chiang* performs the next-step or action of the programming process. *Chiang* plainly does **not** teach or suggest that the next-step or action (i.e. to overcome the difficulties) comes from the user, as claimed in new claim 29.

The Present Independent Claims 1 and 15 are Not Obvious

Independent claims 1 and 15 are rejected as obvious from *Chiang* (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,422) in view of *Mustafa* (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0059378 A1).

The Advisory Action states that Applicant's arguments filed February 3, 2004 are substantial reiterations of the arguments presented November 12, 2003. The Advisory Action is correct that some of the arguments are similar, but they are not the same and have been revised in order to address the points made in the final Office Action.

Applicant respectfully emphasizes that present claim 1 says the invention is for "assisting the user to proceed with programming the programmable logic controller." This excerpt from present claim 1 was quoted for the first time on February 3, 2004 (not on November 12, 2003). This excerpt from present claim 1 is very different from *Chiang* (column 18, lines 65-67) which says that the "users may request the tutorial to perform the correct next action."

Moreover, present claim 1 discloses "the training resources . . . assisting the user to proceed with programming." This excerpt from present claim 1 was quoted for the first time on February 3, 2004 (not on November 12, 2003). *Chiang* does not disclose assisting the user to proceed with programming, and instead discloses doing the programming without the user.

Applicant also emphasizes that the final Office Action acknowledges "that neither the Chiang et al nor Mustafa inventions are directly drawn to the 'software for programming a programmable logic controller'" (page 4 of final Action, second paragraph). In fact, these references do not even address programming at all, much less programming a PLC, and instead they are directed at using a software product rather than programming a device. This point was made for the first time on February 3, 2004 (not on November 12, 2003).

Applicant respectfully submits that the response to final (dated February 3, 2004) did not merely reiterate arguments already submitted on November 12, 2003. Applicant respectfully believes that these are compelling arguments. Applicant also now traverses the statements on page 4 of the final Office Action, second paragraph. See MPEP § 2144.03.

It is the need to address programming a PLC that has led to the present claimed invention, whereas the cited references do not address any kind of programming, and also do not address PLCs, much less the problem of programming PLCs. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not render the present independent claims obvious.

The patentably distinct features of the present claimed invention, including the need for a user to do the programming instead of the programming being done automatically when the user is unable, arise from the unique nature of PLC programming. The present invention can provide suggestions and detect formatting errors, but cannot do the programming on its own, which is why the user must provide the programming input. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are allowable, and therefore the claims depending therefrom (i.e. claims 2-11, 13-14, and 16-29) should also be allowed.
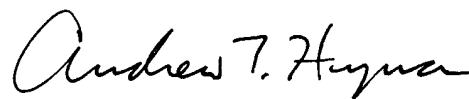
CONCLUSION

For the reasons explained, it is earnestly requested that all pending claims be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner please contact Applicant's attorney by telephone, if doing so might facilitate or expedite examination of the present application.

It is submitted that early passage of the present claims to issuance would be appropriate according to the relevant statutes and regulations, in view of the novel and useful invention claimed by the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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